

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A fish hook comprising:
a hook shank;
a bend provided in one end of said hook shank;
a hook tip terminating said bend;
a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said hook shank from said bend; and
~~a weight provided on said shank between said bend and said hook eye, and having a top~~
weight taper and a lower weight taper comprising a lower weight taper tapered to said hook
shank and a top weight taper which terminates closer to said hook eye than to said hook tip.
2. (Original) The fish hook of claim 1 wherein said top weight taper terminates below said hook eye.
3. (Original) The fish hook of claim 1 further comprising an offset bend positioned between said top weight taper and said hook eye, wherein said top weight taper terminates below said offset bend.
4. (Original) The fish hook of claim 1 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said top weight taper.
5. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 1 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said lower weight taper.
6. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 5 where said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.

7. (Original) The fish hook of claim 1 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said hook shank between said top weight taper and said hook eye.
8. (Original) The fish hook of claim 7 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said top weight taper.
9. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 7 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
10. (Original) The fish hook of claim 7 further comprising:
a reverse bend provided in said bend, wherein said hook tip terminates said reverse bend.
11. (Original) The fish hook of claim 10 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.
12. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 10 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
13. (Original) The fish hook of claim 10 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend.
14. (Original) The fish hook of claim 13 wherein said barb is spaced from said hook tip.
15. (Original) The fish hook of claim 13 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said top weight taper.
16. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 13 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
17. (Original) The fish hook of claim 1 further comprising:
a reverse bend provided in said bend, wherein said hook tip terminates said reverse bend.
18. (Original) The fish hook of claim 17 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.

19. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 17 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said lower weight taper.
20. (Original) The fish hook of claim 17 where said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
21. (Original) The fish hook of claim 17 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend.
22. (Original) The fish hook of claim 21 wherein said barb is spaced from said hook tip.
23. (Original) The fish hook of claim 21 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.
24. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 21 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
25. (Currently Amended) A fish hook comprising:
a straight hook shank segment;
a bend provided in one end of said straight hook shank segment;
a reverse bend terminating said bend;
a hook tip terminating said reverse bend;
a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said straight hook shank segment from said bend; and
~~a weight provided on said straight shank between said bend and said hook eye, said weight having a top weight taper and a lower weight taper~~ comprising a lower weight taper tapered to said hook shank and a top weight taper which terminates closer to said hook eye than to said hook tip.
26. (Original) The fish hook of claim 25 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said top weight taper and said hook eye.

27. (Original) The fish hook of claim 25 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend.
28. (Original) The fish hook of claim 25 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said top weight taper and said hook eye; and
a barb provided in said reverse bend.
29. (Withdrawn) A fish hook comprising:
a curved hook shank segment;
a bend provided in one end of said curved hook shank segment;
a reverse bend terminating said bend;
a hook tip terminating said reverse bend;
a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said curved hook shank segment from said bend; and
a weight provided on said curved shank segment between said bend and said hook eye, said weight having a top weight taper and a lower weight taper.
30. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 29 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said top weight taper and said hook eye.
31. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 29 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend.
32. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 29 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said top weight taper and said hook eye; and
a barb provided in said reverse bend.

33. (Currently Amended) A lure comprising:
a lure body;
a hook at least partially embedded in said lure body, said hook comprising:
a hook shank;
a bend provided in one end of said hook shank;
a hook tip terminating said bend;
a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said hook shank from said bend; and
~~a weight provided on said shank between said bend and said hook eye, and having~~
a top weight taper and a lower weight taper comprising a lower weight taper tapered to
said hook shank and a top weight taper which terminates closer to said hook eye than to
said hook tip.
34. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said top weight taper terminates below said hook eye.
35. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said hook further comprises an offset bend positioned between said top weight taper and said hook eye, and wherein said top weight taper terminates below said offset bend.
36. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said top weight taper.
37. (Withdrawn) The lure of claim 33 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said lower weight taper.
38. (Withdrawn) The lure of claim 37 where said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
39. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said hook further comprises:
an offset bend provided in said hook shank between said top weight taper and said hook eye.

40. (Original) The lure of claim 39 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said top weight taper.
41. (Withdrawn) The lure of claim 39 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
42. (Original) The lure of claim 39 wherein said hook further comprises:
a reverse bend provided in said bend, wherein said hook tip terminates said reverse bend.
43. (Original) The lure of claim 42 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.
44. (Withdrawn) The lure of claim 42 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
45. (Original) The lure of claim 42 wherein said reverse bend is at least partially embedded in said lure body.
46. (Original) The lure of claim 42 wherein said reverse bend extends alongside said lure body.
47. (Original) The lure of claim 42 wherein said hook further comprises a barb provided in said reverse bend.
48. (Original) The lure of claim 47 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said top weight taper.
49. (Withdrawn) The lure of claim 47 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
50. (Original) The lure of claim 47 wherein said barb is spaced from said hook tip.
51. (Original) The lure of claim 47 wherein said barb is at least partially embedded in said lure body.

- 52. (Original) The lure of claim 47 wherein said barb extends alongside said lure body.
- 53. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said hook further comprises:
a reverse bend provided in said bend, wherein said hook tip terminates said reverse bend.
- 54. (Original) The lure of claim 53 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from
above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.
- 55. (Withdrawn) The lure of claim 53 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at
least to said lower weight taper.
- 56. (Withdrawn) The lure of claim 53 where said hook shank is curved from said bend at
least to said top weight taper.
- 57. (Original) The lure of claim 53 wherein said reverse bend is at least partially embedded
in said lure body.
- 58. (Original) The lure of claim 53 wherein said reverse bend extends alongside said lure
body.
- 59. (Original) The lure of claim 53 wherein said hook further comprises a barb provided in
said reverse bend.
- 60. (Original) The lure of claim 59 wherein said barb is spaced from said hook tip.
- 61. (Original) The lure of claim 59 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from
above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.
- 62. (Original) The lure of claim 59 wherein said barb is at least partially embedded in said
lure body.
- 63. (Original) The lure of claim 59 wherein said barb extends alongside said lure body.
- 64. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said hook tip is at least partially embedded in
said lure body.

65. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said hook tip is positioned alongside said lure body.
66. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said hook eye is at least partially embedded in said lure body.
67. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said hook further comprises:
a shank offset bend provided on said hook shank above said top weight taper and below said hook eye;
a shank offset extending from said shank offset bend toward said hook eye;
a shank neck bend extending from said shank offset toward said hook eye; and
a shank neck terminated by said hook eye.
68. (Original) The lure of claim 67 wherein said hook eye, said shank neck, and said shank neck bend are at least partially embedded in said lure body.
69. (Original) The lure of claim 67 wherein said shank offset, said shank offset bend, and said weight are not embedded in said lure body.
70. (Original) The lure of claim 33 further comprising a fishing line 22 tied to said hook eye.
71. (Original) The lure of claim 33 wherein said weight is not embedded in said lure body.